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by City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Debra Figone

SUBJECT: City Manager's Weekly Report

DATE: June 26, 2009

INFORMATION

Following are the key activities to be highlighted this week:

San José Cooling Centers to Open this Weekend —In anticipation of temperatures reaching highs of 96-97 degrees in San José and surrounding communities, the National Weather Service has issued a heat warning for Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28. This heat warning initiates the opening of the City's ten designated Cooling Centers (listed below). The Centers will be open Noon-8:00 p.m. each day to provide a comfortable alternative to heat exposure. Residents are urged to check on elderly and/or vulnerable family members and neighbors to ensure their comfort and safety.

<u>Community Center</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
West San José	3707 Williams Road, San José , 95117	249-6580
Southside	5585 Cottle Road, San José , 95123	629-3336
Roosevelt	901 East Santa Clara Street, San José , 95116	794-7555
Berryessa	3050 Berryessa Road, San José , 95132	251-6392
Mayfair	2039 Kammerer Avenue, San José , 95116	794-1060
Willows	2175 Lincoln Avenue, San José , 95125	448-6400
George Shirakawa	2072 Lucretia Avenue, San José , 95122	277-3317
Evergreen	4860 San Felipe Road, San José , 95135	270-2220
Camden	3369 Union Avenue, San José , 95124	559-8553
Almaden	6445 Camden Avenue., San José , 95120	268-1133

City Manager's Weekly Report Suspension Notice —Please note that the City Manager's Weekly Report will be suspended during the July Council Recess. Critical information will be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council via electronic mail or Information Memorandum. The Weekly Report will resume again on Friday, July 31. For immediate assistance, please contact Ed Shikada at 535-8190.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: June 26, 2009

Page 2 of 5

Employee Discounts —The Finance and Information Technology Departments recently released an RFP for Personal Computers and monitors that resulted in an approximate cost reduction of 40%. These discounted prices are available to all City employees, including the *HP7900* PC with 4GB of memory for \$475, and a 22" widescreen LCD monitor at \$150. The desktops and monitors under this bid are rated *EPEAT Gold*, the highest level of environmental ranking currently available for computers and monitors. For purchase details, please click on the *Employee Discounts Link in the Employee News Network*, located on the City's intranet site.

Airport Passenger Activity Down 19% in May —Passenger traffic at Mineta San José International (SJC) dropped 19% in May 2009, compared to May 2008. To date, the decline for this fiscal year is 14.8% compared to the same period last year. The continuing decline in activity has had a severe impact on Airport revenues, which in turn has required significant budget reductions and a 25% reduction in staffing for fiscal year 2009-10. Although the Airport has forecast flat activity for 2009-10, the length and depth of the current recession will likely require further budget reductions in the future. For more information, contact Terri Gomes at 501-0952.

Alaska Airlines to Launch "Nerd Bird" Service to Austin —On June 22, Alaska Airlines announced it will inaugurate daily service to Austin beginning on September 2 and will be available for purchase on Thursday, June 25, at www.alaskaair.com. The flight will depart San José at 8:55 a.m. and arrive at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport at 2:15 p.m. The return flight will depart Austin at 3:00 p.m. and arrive in San José at 4:40 p.m. Alaska Airline's announcement followed earlier news last week by American Airlines that it would terminate its twice-daily San José /Austin "Nerd Bird" route in August, 2009. For more information, contact Ed Nelson at 501-7603.

Clear Registered Traveler Ceases Operations at Airports —On June 22, VIP/Clear, which provided an express security check-in service at nearly thirty airports across the nation, sent electronic notification that it was ceasing operations at all its airports, including SJC, effective Monday evening. Clear cited difficulties in obtaining additional funding as the principal reason for its sudden decision. SJC was one of the first airports that Clear began to service in early 2007, and had more than 11,000 registered customers in San José. The Airport is reviewing Clear's contractual obligations to determine next steps, financial and customer service impacts, and other operational and legal issues. For more information, contact Terri Gomes at 501-0952.

Massive "Hands" Public Art at Airport Rental Car Garage Now Underway —On June 19, installation of one of the largest pieces of public art on the West Coast began on the east façade of the Airport's consolidated rental car and public parking garage. Measuring 1,240 feet in length by 62 feet in height, "Hands" will become an iconic landmark for the Airport and Silicon Valley. The art project, part of the Airport's "Art + Technology Public Art Master Plan," is integrated into the architecture of the building, and it represents an innovative, creative, collaborative, and cost-effective solution to enhance the visual impact of this large and prominent structure. The Airport and the Public Art Program in the Office of Cultural Affairs commissioned artist Christian Moeller to work with Hensel Phelps Construction and Fentress Architects. The installation's progress over the next two months can be seen easily from Hwy. 87 and from a webcam at <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/sanjoseca/handschristianmoeller>. For more information, contact Mary Rubin at 277-5144, ext 16.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: June 26, 2009

Page 3 of 5

Goodwill Industries Agreement Will Provide Local Mattress Recycling Operation and Create Jobs

—On June 10, the City's Environmental Services Department (ESD) finalized a Demonstration Project Agreement with *Goodwill Industries* to support a local mattress recycling operation which will meet several of the City's key *Green Vision* goals. This project will not only divert a difficult to recycle item from our landfills, it will also create jobs for homeless veterans in the City. The project will leverage federal funds from the *Department of Labor*, along with City funds which will provide support for capital improvements and start-up costs. The development of this facility, which is one of only four of this type in the Country, will provide key infrastructure for the recycling of mattresses in San José. For information, contact Christy Wolter at 975-2609.

City Apartment Recycling Program Receives Excellence Award

—On June 23, the *Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)* announced that the City of San José, in partnership with Recycle Plus contractor *GreenWaste Recovery*, was selected to receive the prestigious "2009 Recycling System Gold Excellence Award." The awards team commended the City for its "successful efforts in achieving the highest level of excellence in solid waste management" by diverting nearly 80% of apartment waste from local landfills, due to *GreenWaste's* garbage processing system which removes recyclables and composts the remaining organic material. *SWANA* is the leading professional association in the solid waste field, serving over 8,000 members from government and private industry. The award will be presented on September 24, at a special luncheon held at the annual "WASTECON" conference in Long Beach, California. For more information, contact Jo Zientek at 535-8557.

City Prevents Mercury Pollution Through Thermometer Exchange Events —During the months of April through June, ESD hosted a total of six Thermometer Exchange events. Altogether, 137 residents in the Water Pollution Plant's tributary service area turned in the following items in exchange for a free digital thermometer:

- Two blood pressure cuffs,
- Two thermostats,
- Three oven thermometers, and
- 270 old-fashioned glass mercury thermometers

All events drew in additional visitors who stopped by the table to ask questions and gather pollution prevention information. The events were held at a variety of locations and venues including, the Milpitas Community Center, Kaiser Permanente Earth Day Event, Los Gatos Farmer's Market, Southside Community Center, Children's Discovery Museum Employee Health Fair and the Northside Community Center. For information, contact Sharon Newton at 277-5695.

Traveler Information Center (TIC) —On July 6, the *Traveler Information Center (TIC)* is scheduled to begin its service. The TIC has a variety of features and will enable City Hall customers and employees to view information regarding various travel options such as bus, rail, biking and walking. It will also enable the user to view travel time and trip cost to local and regional destinations or other points of interest. Airline travelers will be able to print boarding passes to a limited number of airline carriers, as well as make a direct call for taxi service. This project has been coordinated with numerous stakeholders, including the Office of Economic Development, Redevelopment Agency, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the Downtown Association. Vice-Mayor Judy Chirco will be participating in the ribbon cutting event that will occur in August. For more information, contact Lily Lim-Tsao at 975-3269.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: June 26, 2009

Page 4 of 5

California Complete Count Committee —On July 15, the California Complete Count Committee will be holding its Census 2010 regional “convening” for San Mateo, Santa Clara & Santa Cruz counties. This convening, created in partnership between the U.S. Census Bureau and the California Complete Count Committee, is designed to bring community based organizations, business, and individuals together to maximize the number of Californians counted in 2010 by discussing lessons learned from the 2000 Census and gaining feedback from each community, to strategize best practices to reach out to Silicon Valley communities. The event will be held at the Mountain View Community Center from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, contact Nadine Nader at 535-8104.

Veggilution Urban Farming Project Breaks Ground at Prusch Farm —On June 20, the groundbreaking of the Veggilution Urban Farming Project at Prusch Farm was an unbridled success. Approximately 100 volunteers planted a half acre of crops including corn, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, beans, cucumbers, melons, and more while a team of draft horses plowed the other half acre. The unique farming project, a 1-year pilot, known as *East Side Community Farm*, allows local non-profit, *Veggilution* to create a farm to provide low cost healthy food to the community as well as teach the City's youth about food, agriculture, and other social and environmental issues. *Veggilution's* stated mission is to empower youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to create a sustainable food system in San José . The Urban Farming Project is sponsored by the Emma Prusch Park Foundation and the City and is run by *Veggilution*. For more information, contact Alex Pearson at 926-5560.

Second Annual Safe Summer Initiative Delivers Scholarships Citywide —On June 15, the 2009 Safe Summer Initiative program began. The Program is designed to keep area youth safe, active and engaged in positive recreation during the months of June through September. To date, the 2009 Safe Summer Initiative Grant (SSIG) program has awarded over \$110,000 in scholarships funds, granting over 300 eligible students up to four weeks of participation in City-run camps this summer. With the aid of local community-based organizations (CBOs), staff anticipates serving over 7,000 youth this summer. In 2008, over 7,400 students participated in SSIG enjoying activities that ranged from rock climbing, camping, and fishing to improving literacy skills, college campus visits, community service projects, and audio/video/music production. A comprehensive evaluation of last year's SSIG program is available at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/grants/best.asp>. For more information, contact Abraham Chacko at 793-5560.

Almaden Lake Area Targeted by Vandals —On June 16, at approximately 2:30 a.m. unknown individuals accessed Almaden Lake Park and set fire to a 15-foot power boat used by staff to access and patrol the lake. The Fire Department quickly responded and extinguished the boat fire; however, the boat was damaged beyond repair at a loss of a \$10,000. After confirming that the incident had not compromised the water quality, staff opened the lake to for swim on Wednesday, June 17. In response, PRNS has requested additional Police Department patrols of area facilities and have alerted area parks, rangers and community center and library staff to heighten security consciousness. Staff has also arranged enhanced patrols of Almaden Lake, Chris Hotts Park, Guadalupe Creek Trail and Fontana Park by uniformed City vendor (First Alarm). For more information, contact Mark Marney, 535-3582.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Subject: City Manager's Weekly Report

Date: June 26, 2009

Page 5 of 5

32nd Annual Hershey State Track Meet —On June 20, the annual Northern California Hershey State Meet was held at Oak Grove High School. Over one thousand students from Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah and California participated in the event with 95 students representing San José. Gold medal winners from this event are eligible to compete in the grand finale, the North American Final in Hershey, Pennsylvania on August 1. This competition is the largest youth sports program of its kind in the United States and Canada. Track & Field meets take place in every state and every province in North America. Local key sponsors include: Police Amateur Athletic Foundation, South Bay Sports Association of Northern California Recreation Agencies, The National Recreation and Park Association, National Association for Sports and Physical Education, Athletics Canada, USA Track & Field, and Hershey Company, Hershey, PA. For more information, contact Suzanne Wolf at 793-5532.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Kick-Off Event for Three New Parks in Council District Two – Saturday, June 27, 2009, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at RAMAC Park (Great Oaks Parkway and Charlotte Avenue near corner of Poughkeepsie Road & Cottle Road). For further information please contact the Office of Councilmember Ash Kalra, District 2 at 535-4902.

Wonders of Our Water Works Bus Tours —First and third Saturdays, May-October, 9:00-11:00 a.m., and 1:00-3:00 p.m. (exceptions for the month of July). Group tours also available first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. For information, call 975-2556 or visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan/tour-reservations.asp>


Debra Figone
City Manager